

REMARKS

Claims 19-46 are pending. Claims 1-18 and 47-48 have been cancelled. No new matter is believed to be added by this amendment.

In a Restriction Requirement mailed on September 15, 2003, the Examiner restricted the application and required an election of one of the following Groups: (I) Claims 1-18 and 47, drawn to a method of controlling bow and skew of a backing material fed through tufting machines, and (II) Claims 19-46, drawn to a system for controlling bow and skew of a backing material fed through a tufting machine utilizing a detection device and a controller coupled to the detection device. In a response filed on November 14, 2003, the Applicants provisionally elected Group II (Claims 19-46) with traverse.

In an Office Action mailed on January 12, 2004, the Examiner maintained the restriction requirement, but indicated that the elected claims (Group II) were in condition for allowance, except for the presence of the non-elected claims. Due to a typographical error, the Examiner listed Claims 19-45 as the allowable claims, instead of Claims 19-46. The Applicants' below-signed counsel discussed this typographical error with the Examiner in an interview on January 26, 2004. As set forth in the Examiner's Interview Summary of the same date, the allowable claims in the application are Claims 19-46.

In this Amendment, the Applicants have cancelled the non-elected Claims 1-18 and 47-48. The rest of the Claims, 19-46, have been indicated to be allowable. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of all the pending claims. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a divisional application.

The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact directly the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of this application to issue. No fee is believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 03269.0016U2
APPLICATION SERIAL NO.: 10/017,099

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any items indicated as attached or included are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EL 992017168 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.



Michael Laird

2/11/64

Date